

IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims of the Application are reproduced below.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for indicating ~~the priority~~ a priority of a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call, comprising:

receiving a dialed number for a connection;
generating a call setup request including the dialed number;
receiving a priority for the call based on user input provided contemporaneously with the dialed number;

accessing a rule base to validate the priority;

generating a priority indicator based on the priority; ~~and~~

negating the priority indicator if determined invalid based on the rule base; and

transmitting the call setup request and priority indicator.

2. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the priority indicator is an information element (IE).

3. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 2, further comprising:

receiving an alerting phrase from ~~the user~~ a user; and
transmitting the alerting phrase with the priority indicator.

4. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the priority is high.

5. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the priority is low.

6. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the user input is received after the call setup request has been transmitted.

7. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein the user input is received as a prefix to the dialed number.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising generating the priority in response to at least activation of a button on an input device by ~~the user~~ a user.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising prompting ~~the user~~ a user for the priority with an automated system.

10. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising generating the priority in response to at least a spoken input sound recognized by voice recognition logic.

11. **(Canceled)**

12. **(Currently Amended)** The method of ~~Claim 11~~ Claim 1, further comprising validating the priority at a calling party device.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The method of ~~Claim 11~~ Claim 1, further comprising validating the priority at a called party device.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The method of ~~Claim 11~~ Claim 1, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding ~~the calling~~ a calling party device.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The method of ~~Claim 11~~ Claim 1, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding both ~~the calling~~ calling and called parties' devices.

16. **(Currently Amended)** The method of ~~Claim 11~~ Claim 1, wherein the rule base is based on input provided by a user at a called party device.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A method for indicating ~~the priority~~ a priority of a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call, comprising:

receiving a call setup request to a dialed number;
receiving a priority indicator for ~~the connection~~ a connection based on user input provided contemporaneously with the dialed number;
processing the call setup request to set up ~~a connection~~ the connection; and
transmitting the priority indicator for delivery to a destination device for indication to a call recipient.

18. **(Original)** The method of Claim 17, wherein the priority indicator is an information element (IE).

19. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 18, further comprising:
receiving an alerting phrase from ~~the user~~ a user; and
transmitting the alerting phrase with the priority indicator.

20. **(Original)** The method of Claim 17, wherein the priority is high.

21. **(Original)** The method of Claim 17, wherein the priority is low.

22. **(Original)** The method of Claim 17, wherein the user input is received after the call setup request has been processed.

23. **(Original)** The method of Claim 17, wherein the user input is received as a prefix to the dialed number.

24. **(Original)** The method of Claim 17, further comprising:
accessing a rule base to validate the priority; and
negating the priority indicator if determined invalid based on the rule base.

25. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 24, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding ~~the calling~~ a calling party device.

26. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 24, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding a combination of ~~the calling~~ calling and ~~call~~ called parties' devices.

27. **(Original)** The method of Claim 24, wherein the rule base is based on input provided by a user at a called party device.

28. **(Currently Amended)** A method for indicating ~~the priority~~ a priority of a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call, comprising:
ringing a dialed number to establish a connection with a calling party;
receiving a priority indicator for the connection based on user input provided contemporaneously with the dialed number;
indicating to a call recipient the priority of the connection.

29. **(Original)** The method of Claim 28, wherein the priority indicator is an information element (IE).

30. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 29, further comprising:
receiving an alerting phrase from ~~the user~~ a user; and
transmitting the alerting phrase with the priority indicator.

31. **(Original)** The method of Claim 28, wherein the priority is high.

32. **(Original)** The method of Claim 28, wherein the priority is low.

33. **(Original)** The method of Claim 28, further comprising:
accessing a rule base to validate the priority; and
indicating the priority if valid.

34. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 33, wherein the rule base is based on the statistical information gathered regarding ~~the calling~~ a calling party device.

35. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 33, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding a combination of ~~the calling~~ calling and called parties' devices.

36. **(Original)** The method of Claim 33, wherein the rule base is based on input provided by a user at a called party device.

37. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 28, wherein the ~~call~~ priority is indicated by a distinctive ring.

38. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 28, wherein the ~~call~~ priority is indicated by a flashing light.

39. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 28, wherein the ~~call~~ priority is indicated by a display on an LCD display.

40. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 28, wherein the ~~call~~ priority is indicated by a spoken phrase.

41. **(Original)** The method of Claim 40, wherein the spoken phrase is a pre-recorded voice file.

42. **(Original)** The method of Claim 40, wherein the spoken phrase is a real-time uttered phrase of the calling party.

43. **(Currently Amended)** A system, comprising:
logic encoded in media; and,
the logic being operable to receive a dialed number for a connection; generate a call setup request including the dialed number; receive a priority for the call based on user input provided contemporaneously with the dialed number; access a rule base to validate the priority; generate a priority indicator based on the priority; negate the priority indicator if determined invalid based on the rule base; and transmit the call setup request and priority indicator.

44. **(Original)** The system of Claim 43, wherein the priority indicator is an information element (IE).

45. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 44, the logic further operable to:
receive an alerting phrase from ~~the user~~ a user; and
transmit the alerting phrase with the priority indicator.

46. **(Original)** The system of Claim 43, wherein the priority is high.

47. **(Original)** The system of Claim 43, wherein the priority is low.

48. **(Original)** The system of Claim 43, wherein the user input is received after the call setup request has been transmitted.

49. **(Original)** The system of Claim 43, wherein the user input is received as a prefix to the dialed number.

50. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 43, the logic further operable to generate the priority in response to at least activation of a button on an input device by ~~the user~~ a user.

51. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 43, the logic further operable to prompt ~~the user~~ a user for the priority with an automated system.

52. **(Original)** The system of Claim 43, the logic further operable to generate the priority in response to at least a spoken input recognized by voice recognition logic.

53. **(Canceled)**

54. **(Currently Amended)** The system of ~~Claim 53~~ Claim 43, the logic further operable to validate the priority at a calling party device.

55. **(Currently Amended)** The system of ~~Claim 53~~ Claim 43, the logic further operable to validate the priority at a called party device.

56. **(Currently Amended)** The system of ~~Claim 53~~ Claim 43, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding ~~the calling~~ a calling party device.

57. **(Currently Amended)** The system of ~~Claim 53~~ Claim 43, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding a combination of ~~the calling~~ calling and called parties' devices.

58. **(Currently Amended)** The system of ~~Claim 53~~ Claim 43, wherein the rule base is based on input provided by a user at a called party device.

59. **(Currently Amended)** A system, comprising:
logic encoded in media; and,
the logic being operable to receive a call setup request to a dialed number; receive a priority indicator for ~~the connection~~ a connection based on user input provided contemporaneously with the dialed number; process the call setup request to set up ~~a connection~~ the connection; and transmit the priority indicator for delivery to a destination device for indication to a call recipient.

60. **(Original)** The system of Claim 59, wherein the priority indicator is an information element (IE).

61. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 59, the logic further operable to: receive an alerting phrase from ~~the user~~ a user; and transmit the alerting phrase with the priority indicator.

62. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 59, wherein ~~the priority~~ a priority is high.

63. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 59, wherein ~~the priority~~ a priority is low.

64. **(Original)** The system of Claim 59, wherein the user input is received after the call setup request has been processed.

65. **(Original)** The system of Claim 59, wherein the user input is received as a prefix to the dialed number.

66. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 59, the logic further operable to: access a rule base to validate ~~the priority request~~ a priority; and negate the priority indicator if determined invalid based on the rule base.

67. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 66, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding ~~the calling~~ a calling party device .

68. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 66, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding a combination of ~~the calling~~ calling and called parties' devices.

69. **(Original)** The system of Claim 66, wherein the rule base is based on input provided by a user at a called party device.

70. **(Currently Amended)** A system, comprising:
logic encoded in media; ~~and,~~ and
the logic being operable to ring a dialed number to establish a connection with a calling party; receive a priority indicator for the connection based on user input provided contemporaneously with the dialed number; indicate to a call recipient ~~the priority~~ a priority of the connection.

71. **(Original)** The system of Claim 70, wherein the priority indicator is an information element (IE).

72. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 71, the logic further operable to:
receive an alerting phrase from ~~the user~~ a user; and
transmit the alerting phrase with the priority indicator.

73. **(Original)** The system of Claim 70, wherein the priority is high.

74. **(Original)** The system of Claim 70, wherein the priority is low.

75. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 70, the logic further operable to: access a rule base to validate the priority ~~request~~; and indicate the priority if valid.
76. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 75, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding ~~the-calling~~ a calling party device.
77. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 75, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding a combination of ~~the-calling~~ calling and called parties' devices.
78. **(Original)** The system of Claim 75, wherein the rule base is based on input provided by a user at a called party device.
79. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 75, wherein the ~~call~~ priority is indicated by a distinctive ring.
80. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 75, wherein the ~~call~~ priority is indicated by a flashing light.
81. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 75, wherein the ~~call~~ priority is indicated by a display on an LCD display.
82. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 75, wherein the ~~call~~ priority is indicated by a spoken phrase.
83. **(Original)** The system of Claim 82, wherein the spoken phrase is a pre-recorded voice file.

84. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 82, wherein the spoken phrase is a real-time uttered phrase of ~~the-calling~~ **a calling** party.

85. **(Currently Amended)** A system, comprising:
a means for receiving a dialed number for a connection;
a means for generating a call setup request including the dialed number;
a means for receiving a priority for ~~the-call~~ **a call** based on user input provided contemporaneously with the dialed number;
a means for accessing a rule base to validate the priority;
a means for generating a priority indicator based on the priority;
a means for negating the priority indicator if determined invalid based on the rule base; and
a means for transmitting the call setup request and priority indicator.

86. **(Original)** The system of Claim 85, wherein the priority indicator is an information element (IE).

87. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 85, further comprising:
a means for receiving an alerting phrase from ~~the-user~~ **a user**; and
a means for transmitting the alerting phrase with the priority indicator.

88. **(Original)** The system of Claim 85, wherein the priority is high.

89. **(Original)** The system of Claim 85, wherein the priority is low.

90. **(Original)** The system of Claim 85, wherein the user input is received after the call setup request has been processed.

91. **(Original)** The system of Claim 85, wherein the user input is received as a prefix to the dialed number.

92. **(Original)** The system of Claim 85, further comprising a means for generating the priority in response to at least activation of a button on an input device.

93. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 85, further comprising a means for prompting ~~the user~~ a user for the priority with an automated system.

94. **(Original)** The system of Claim 85, further comprising a means for generating the priority in response to at least a spoken input recognized by voice recognition logic.

95. **(Canceled)** .

96. **(Currently Amended)** The system of ~~Claim 95~~ Claim 85, further comprising a means for validating the priority at a calling party device.

97. **(Currently Amended)** The system of ~~Claim 95~~ Claim 85, further comprising a means for validating the priority at ~~the called~~ a called party device.

98. **(Currently Amended)** The system of ~~Claim 95~~ Claim 85, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding ~~the calling~~ a calling party device.

99. **(Currently Amended)** The system of ~~Claim 95~~ Claim 85, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding a combination of ~~the calling~~ calling and called parties' devices.

100. **(Currently Amended)** The system of ~~Claim 95~~ Claim 85, wherein the rule base is based on input provided by a user at a called party device.

101. **(Currently Amended)** A system, comprising:
a means for receiving a call setup request to a dialed number;
a means for receiving a priority indicator for ~~the connection~~ a connection based on user input provided contemporaneously with the dialed number;
a means for processing the call setup request to set up ~~a connection~~ the connection;
and
a means for transmitting the priority indicator for delivery to a destination device for indication to a call recipient.

102. **(Original)** The system of Claim 101, wherein the priority indicator is an information element (IE).

103. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 102, further comprising:
a means for receiving an alerting phrase from ~~the user~~ a user; and
a means for transmitting the alerting phrase with the priority indicator.

104. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 101, wherein ~~the priority~~ a priority is high.

105. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 101, wherein ~~the priority~~ a priority is low.

106. **(Original)** The system of Claim 101, wherein the user input is received after the call setup request has been processed.

107. **(Original)** The system of Claim 101, wherein the user input is received as a prefix to the dialed number.

108. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 101, further comprising:
a means for accessing a rule base to validate the priority ~~request~~; and
a means for negating the priority indicator if determined invalid based on the rule base.

109. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 108, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding ~~the calling~~ a calling party device.

110. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 108, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding a combination of ~~the calling~~ calling and called parties' devices.

111. **(Original)** The system of Claim 108, wherein the rule base is based on input provided by a user at a called party device.

112. **(Currently Amended)** A system, comprising:
a means for ringing a dialed number to establish a connection with a calling party;
a means for receiving a priority indicator for the connection based on user input provided contemporaneously with the dialed number;
a means for indicating to a call recipient ~~the priority~~ a priority of the connection.

113. **(Original)** The system of Claim 112, wherein the priority indicator is an information element (IE).

114. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 113, further comprising:
a means for receiving an alerting phrase from ~~the user~~ a user; and
a means for transmitting the alerting phrase with the priority indicator.

115. **(Original)** The system of Claim 112, wherein the priority is high.

116. **(Original)** The system of Claim 112, wherein the priority is low.
117. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 112, further comprising:
a means for accessing a rule base to validate the priority ~~request~~; and
a means for indicating the priority if valid.
118. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 117, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information gathered regarding ~~the-calling~~ a calling party device.
119. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 117, wherein the rule base is based on statistical information regarding a combination of ~~the-calling~~ calling and called parties' devices.
120. **(Original)** The system of Claim 117, wherein the rule base is based on input provided by a user at a called party device.
121. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 117, wherein the ~~call~~ priority is indicated by a distinctive ring.
122. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 117, wherein the ~~call~~ priority is indicated by a flashing light.
123. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 117, wherein the ~~call~~ priority is indicated by a display on an LCD display.
124. **(Currently Amended)** The system of Claim 117, wherein the ~~call~~ priority is indicated by a spoken phrase.
125. **(Original)** The system of Claim 124, wherein the spoken phrase is a pre-recorded voice file.

126. **(Original)** The system of Claim 124, wherein the spoken phrase is a real-time uttered phrase by the calling party.

127. **(Currently Amended)** A method for indicating ~~the priority~~ a priority of Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) calls, comprising:

receiving contemporaneously with placement of a call a user specified priority for the call; and

communicating the user specified priority as part of placement of the call for indication of the priority to a called party.

128. **(Currently Amended)** The method of Claim 127, wherein the user specified priority is independent of ~~the user~~ a user and the called party.

129. **(Original)** The method of Claim 127, further comprising blocking indication of the priority based on input provided by the called party.

130. **(New)** A method for indicating the priority of a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call, comprising:

receiving a dialed number for a connection;

generating a call setup request including the dialed number;

receiving a priority for the call based on user input provided contemporaneously with the dialed number;

generating a priority indicator based on the priority, wherein the priority indicator is an information element (IE);

receiving an alerting phrase from a user; and

transmitting the call setup request, the priority indicator, and the alerting phrase.

131. **(New)** A method for indicating the priority of a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call, comprising:

- receiving a dialed number for a connection;
- generating a call setup request including the dialed number;
- receiving a priority for the call based on user input provided contemporaneously with the dialed number;
- generating the priority in response to at least activation of a button on an input device by a user;
- generating a priority indicator based on the priority; and
- transmitting the call setup request and priority indicator.

132. **(New)** A method for indicating the priority of a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call, comprising:

- receiving a dialed number for a connection;
- generating a call setup request including the dialed number;
- receiving a priority for the call based on user input provided contemporaneously with the dialed number;
- generating the priority in response to at least a spoken input sound recognized by voice recognition logic;
- generating a priority indicator based on the priority; and
- transmitting the call setup request and priority indicator.